FROM THE WORLD OF FABLEWOOD...
FICTION SQUAD™
NO.3 OF 6
PAUL JENKINS & RAMON BACHS
BOOM! STUDIOS
RF BACHS 2014
delgado

FROM THE WORLD OF FABLEWOOD...

FICTION SQUAD™

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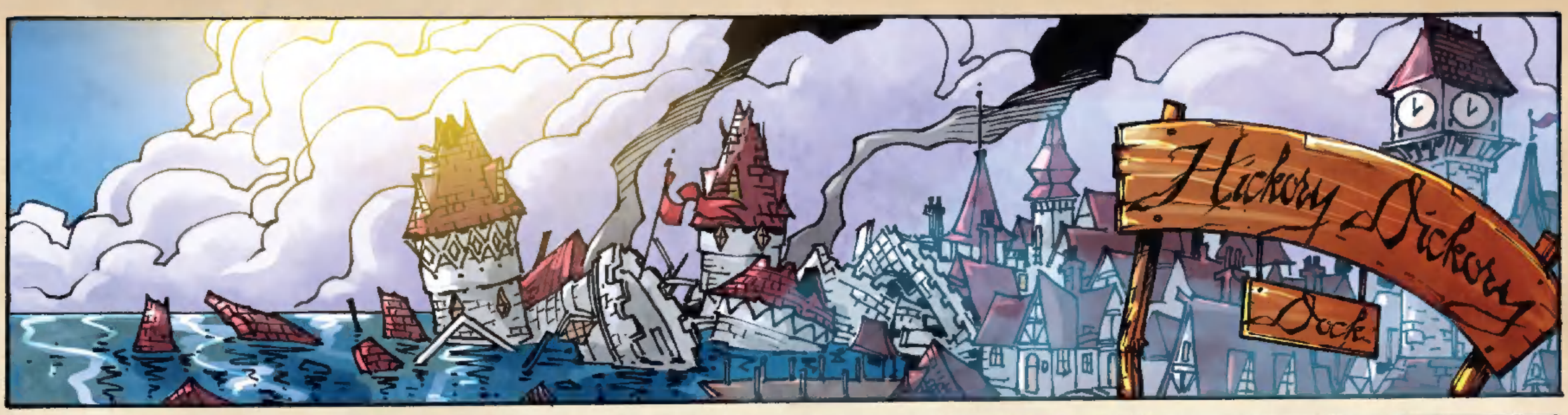
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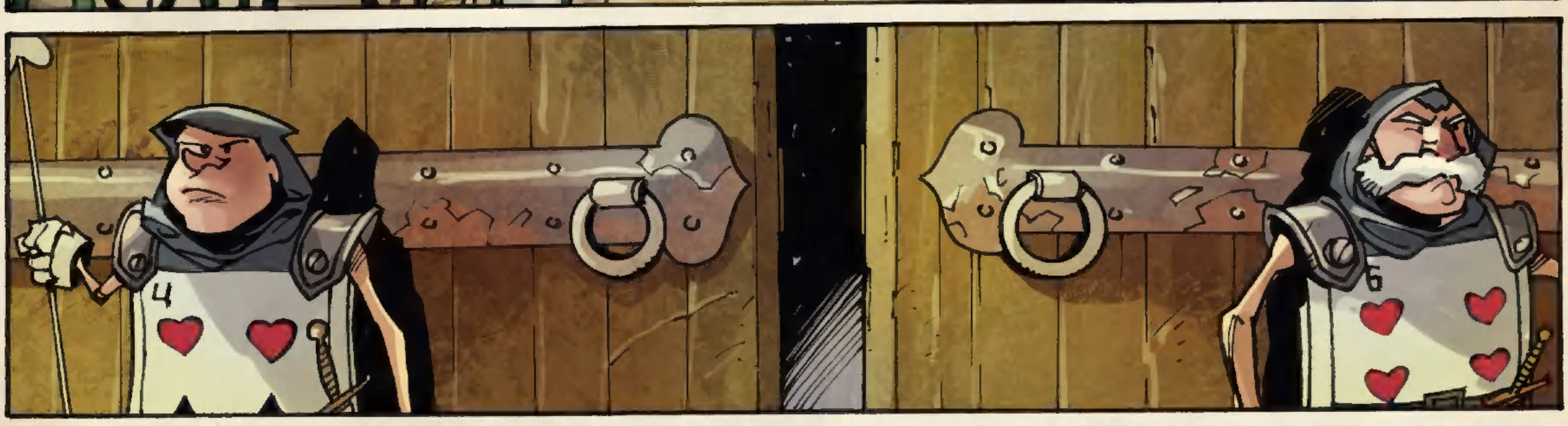
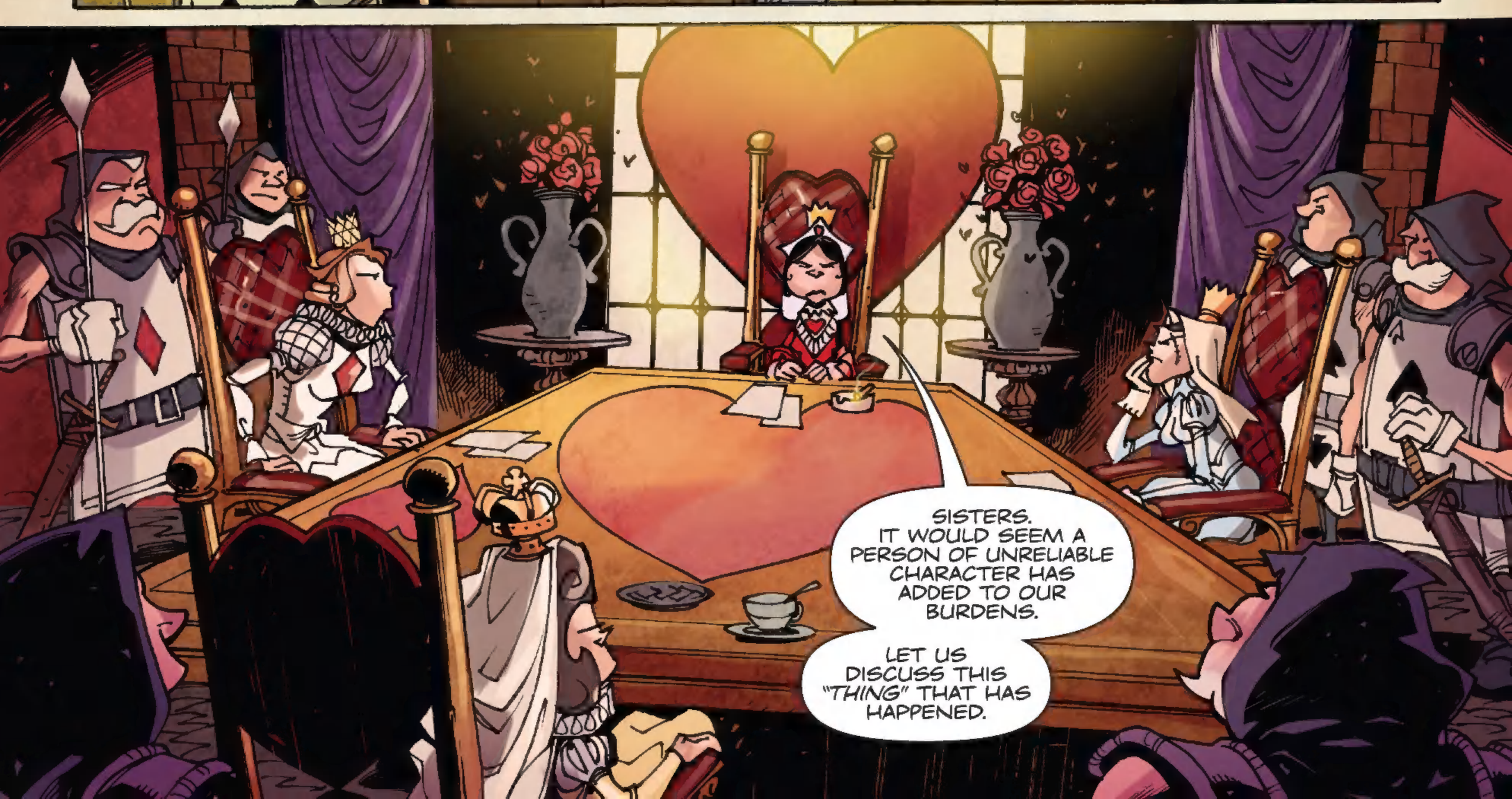
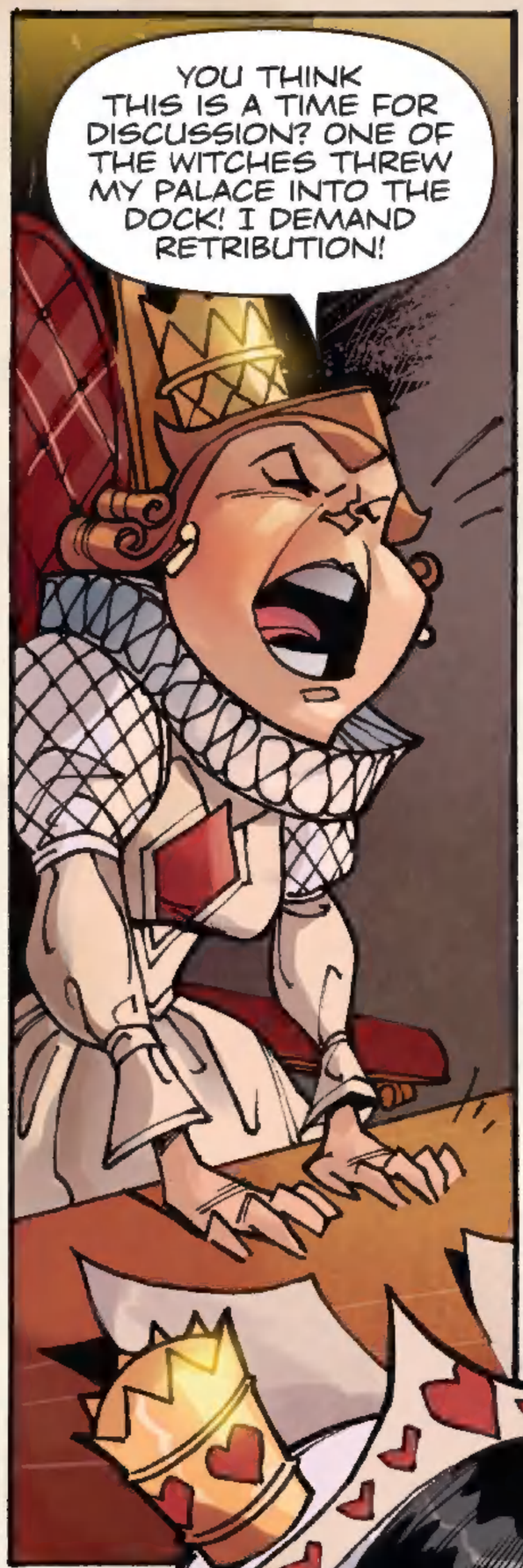
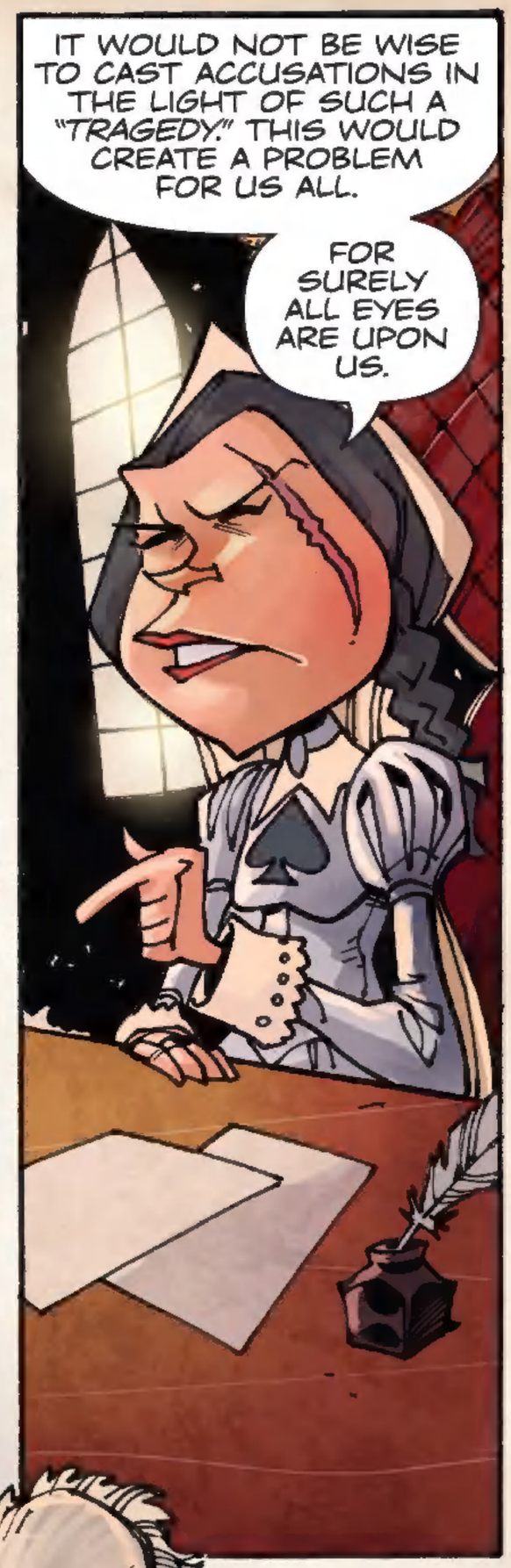



SISTERS.
IT WOULD SEEM A PERSON OF UNRELIABLE CHARACTER HAS ADDED TO OUR BURDENS.
LET US DISCUSS THIS "THING" THAT HAS HAPPENED.


YOU THINK THIS IS A TIME FOR DISCUSSION? ONE OF THE WITCHES THREW MY PALACE INTO THE DOCK! I DEMAND RETRIBUTION!

NOW, SISTER DIAMOND. LET US NOT BE HASTY. MANY A PERSON HAS FALLEN TO THEIR DEATH WHILE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.
DESPITE THIS UNFORTUNATE "ACCIDENT" INVOLVING YOUR PALACE, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO PLACE UNPROVOKED SUSPICION ON THE WITCHES.

YES. SURELY, WE MUST SEND THEM OUR CONDOLENCES FOR THE UNFORTUNATE "ACCIDENT" THAT BEFELL THEIR EASTSIDE SISTER, WHO WAS SO TRAGICALLY STRUCK DOWN BY A RANDOM FLYING HOUSE.


IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO CAST ACCUSATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF SUCH A "TRAGEDY." THIS WOULD CREATE A PROBLEM FOR US ALL.
FOR SURELY ALL EYES ARE UPON US.

THEN WE ARE AGREED: LET US REACH OUT THE STRONG HAND OF "FRIENDSHIP" TO OUR SISTERS FROM THE STORYBOOKS OF OZ...

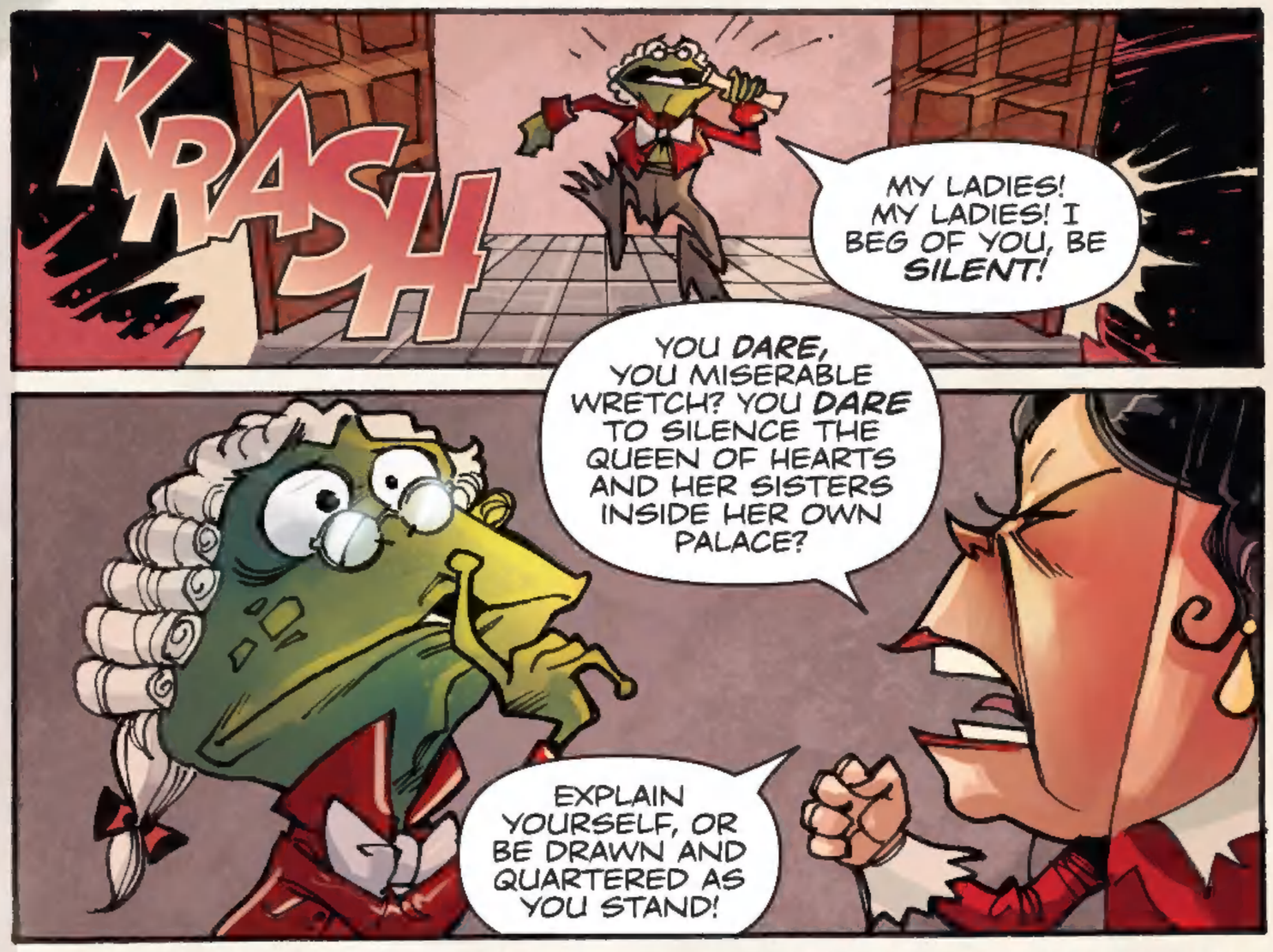
...WE WILL PAY THEM A "VISIT"--PERHAPS TO REMIND THEM OF THE CONTINUED NEED FOR COOPERATION IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES...
WHAAAHH

...SO THAT THERE ARE NO FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN OUR FAMILIES.
YUHAAAH

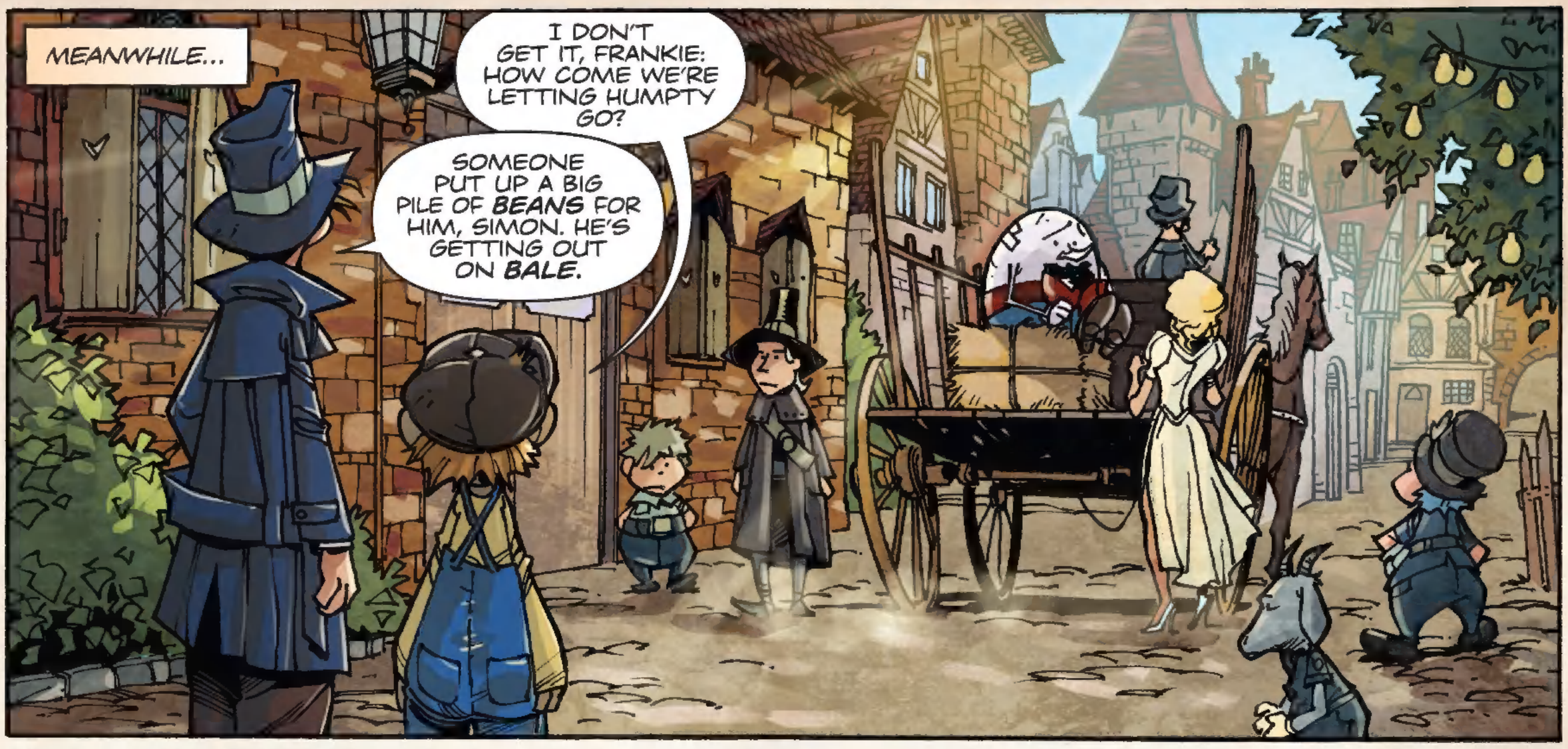
I WON'T STAND FOR THIS! I'LL TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE WITCHES MYSELF! I WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS OUTRAGE!

YOU PROTEST TOO MUCH, SISTER DIAMOND. MADONNA OF HEARTS HAS SPOKEN, AND HER WORD IS OUR BOND--
I DON'T CARE! I WILL NOT BE SUBJECTED TO SUCH PUBLIC INDIGNITY!

BE CAREFUL YOU HAVE THE WITS TO BACK UP YOUR TONGUE, SISTER DIAMOND. I SUGGEST YOU RETHINK YOUR PRIORITIES TO THIS HOUSE OF CARDS--

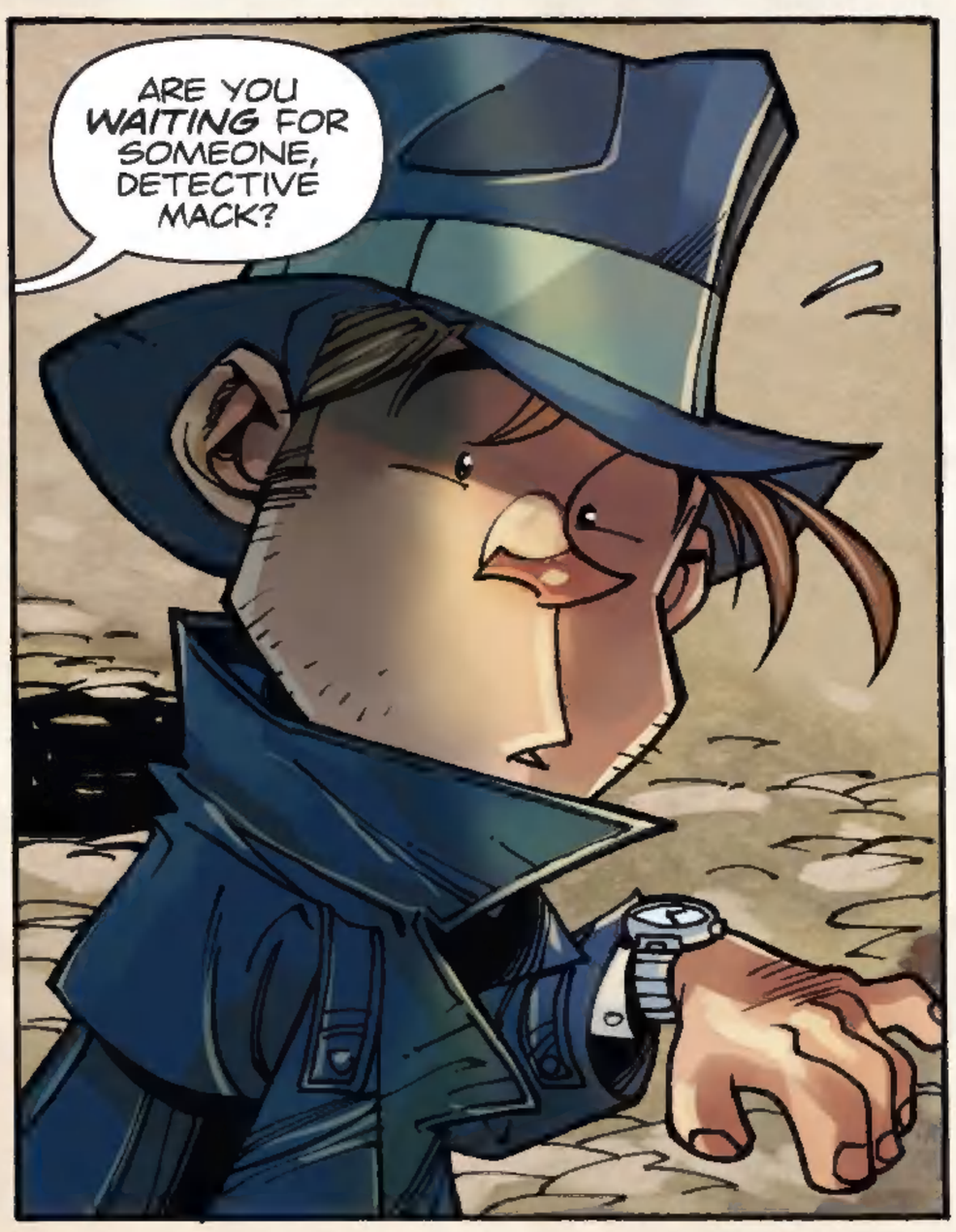

KRASH
MY LADIES! MY LADIES! I BEG OF YOU, BE SILENT!
YOU DARE, YOU MISERABLE WRETCH? YOU DARE TO SILENCE THE QUEEN OF HEARTS AND HER SISTERS INSIDE HER OWN PALACE?
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, OR BE DRAWN AND QUARTERED AS YOU STAND!

This Place is Bugged

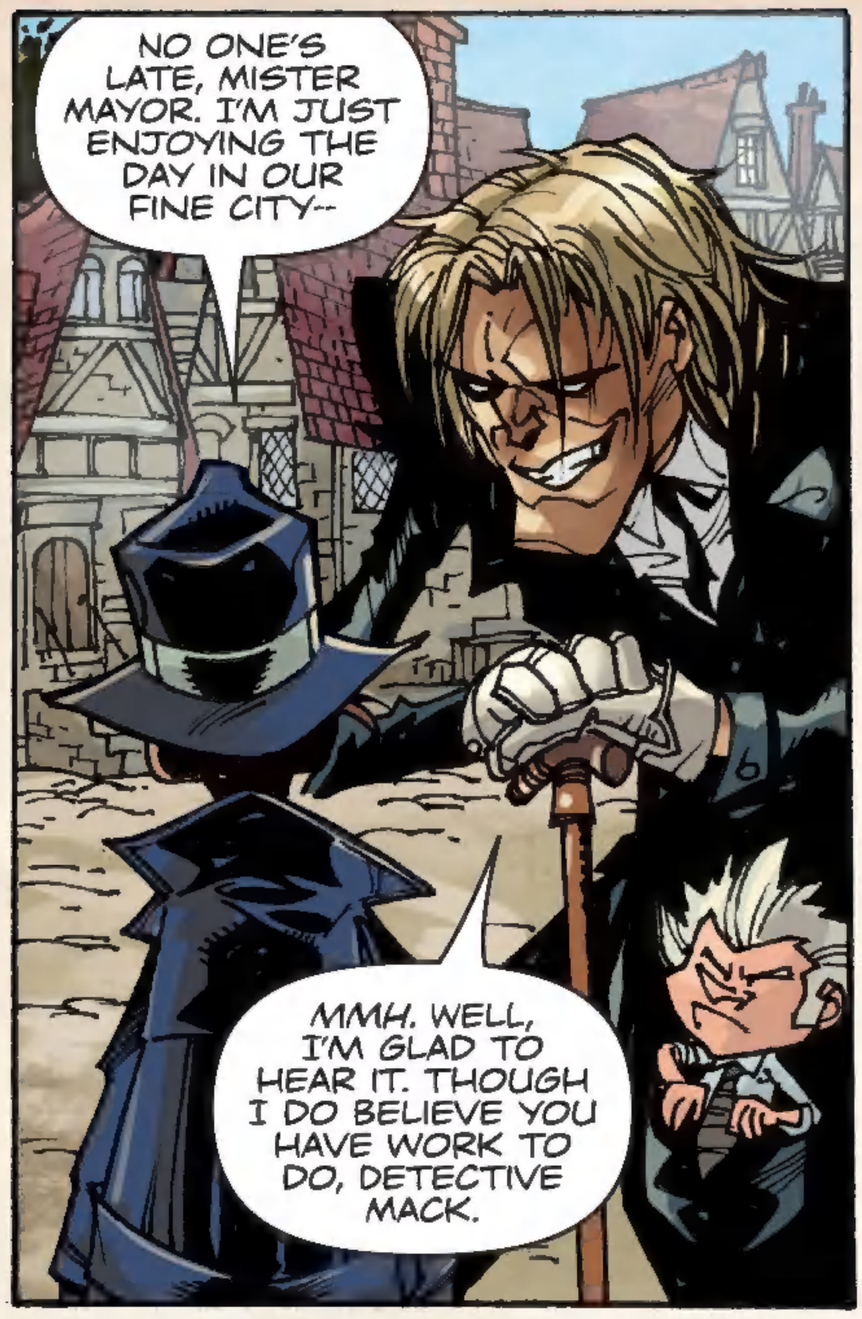

MEANWHILE...
I DON'T GET IT, FRANKIE: HOW COME WE'RE LETTING HUMPTY GO?
SOMEONE PUT UP A BIG PILE OF BEANS FOR HIM, SIMON. HE'S GETTING OUT ON BALE.

I DON'T TRUST THIS ONE BIT. WHY WOULD THE QUEENS SET HIM UP ONLY TO SET HIM FREE?
CAPTAIN SAYS WE CAN'T GO NEAR HIM SO I WANT YOU TO PUT A TAIL ON HIS WIFE FOR ME, SEE WHAT YOU CAN COME UP WITH. I GOTTA WAIT HERE FOR SOMEONE. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
OKEY-DOKEY.

COME ON, BUG, COME ON... WHERE ARE YOU?


ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE, DETECTIVE MACK?

SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T MAKE AN APPEARANCE, HMM? I DO SO DESPISE TARDINESS IN MY SUBORDINATES.
I'D RATHER A MAN WERE DEAD IN HIS SHOES THAN WASTE MY VALUABLE TIME.

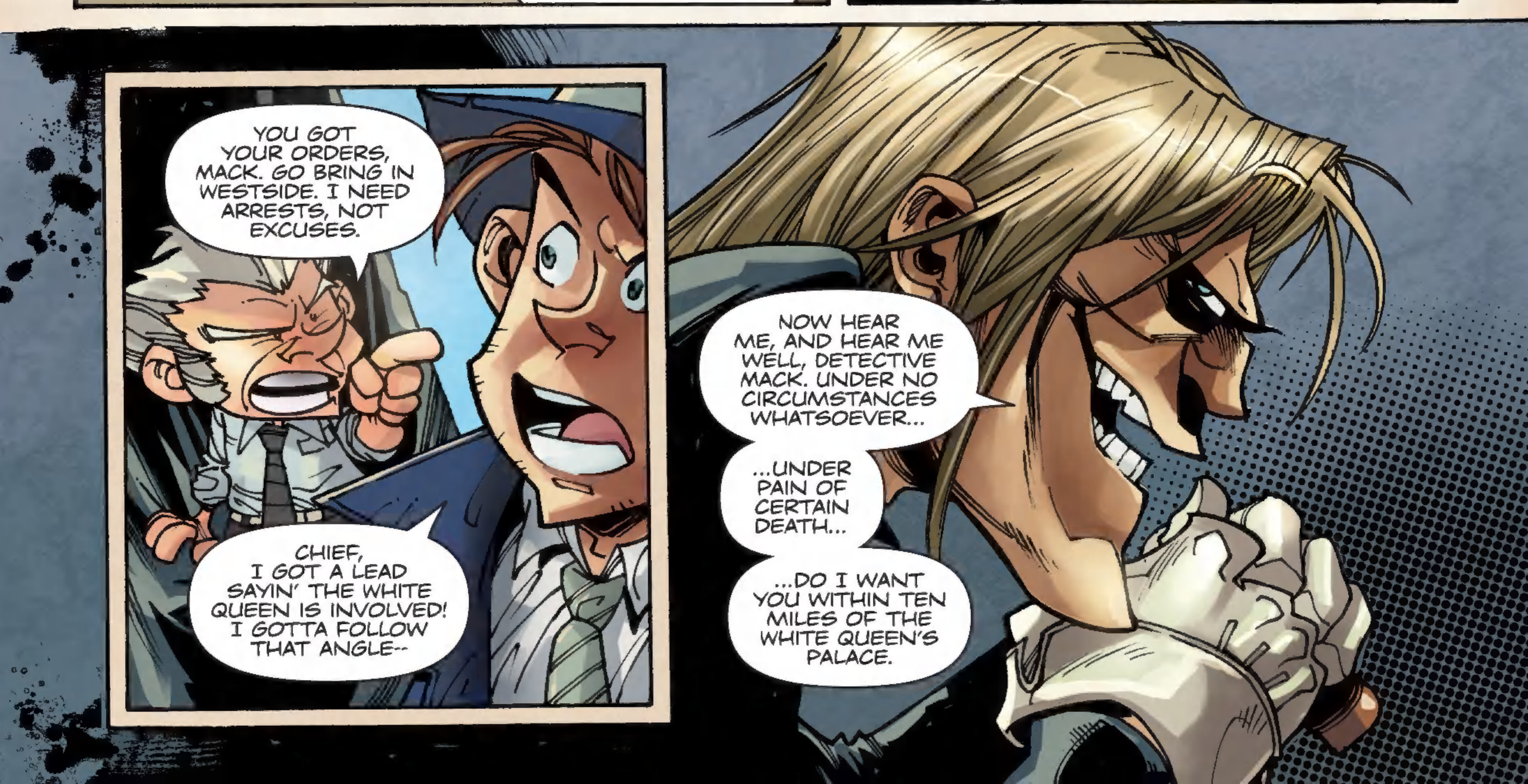

NO ONE'S LATE, MISTER MAYOR. I'M JUST ENJOYING THE DAY IN OUR FINE CITY--
MMH. WELL, I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT. THOUGH I DO BELIEVE YOU HAVE WORK TO DO, DETECTIVE MACK.

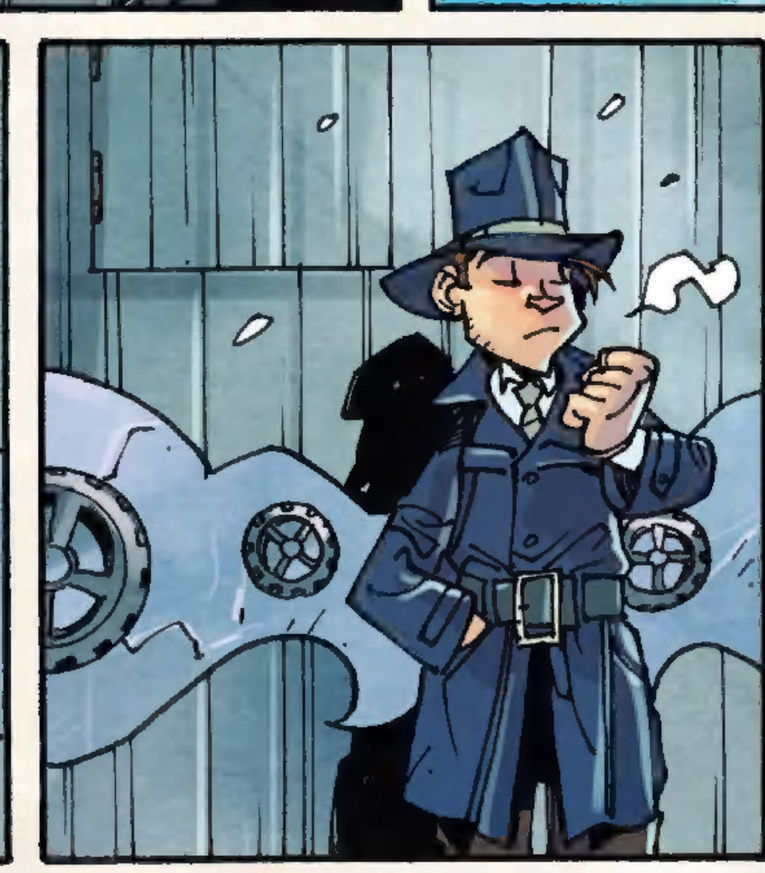
WE WANT THIS CASE AGAINST HUMPTY LOCKED UP BEFORE SOMEONE BANKROLLS HIS LAWYERS. YOU'VE GOT UNTIL TOMORROW--
BUT CHIEF... WE HAVEN'T QUESTIONED ANYONE ELSE YET!

YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WORKS, MACK. MAYBE THEY DO ALL THAT FANCY DETECTIVE WORK WHERE YOU COME FROM BUT HERE IN RIMES, WE KNOW WHAT'S WHAT.
THE EGG MAN KILLED THE EASTSIDE WITCH. IT WAS A DISPUTE ABOUT PAYMENT FOR A DEAL GONE WRONG WITH HER SISTER.

I THINK YOUR CAPTAIN HAS MADE HIS POINT, DETECTIVE. YOU WILL DO AS YOU'RE INSTRUCTED.
ALSO, I WANT YOU TO ARREST THE WESTSIDE WITCH FOR DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.

BUT SIR... I CAN'T JUST GO INTO OZ TERRITORY AND ARREST WESTSIDE! IT'S SUICIDE!
MMH.


YOU GOT YOUR ORDERS, MACK. GO BRING IN WESTSIDE. I NEED ARRESTS, NOT EXCUSES.
CHIEF, I GOT A LEAD SAYIN' THE WHITE QUEEN IS INVOLVED! I GOTTA FOLLOW THAT ANGLE--
NOW HEAR ME, AND HEAR ME WELL, DETECTIVE MACK. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER...
...UNDER PAIN OF CERTAIN DEATH...
...DO I WANT YOU WITHIN TEN MILES OF THE WHITE QUEEN'S PALACE.

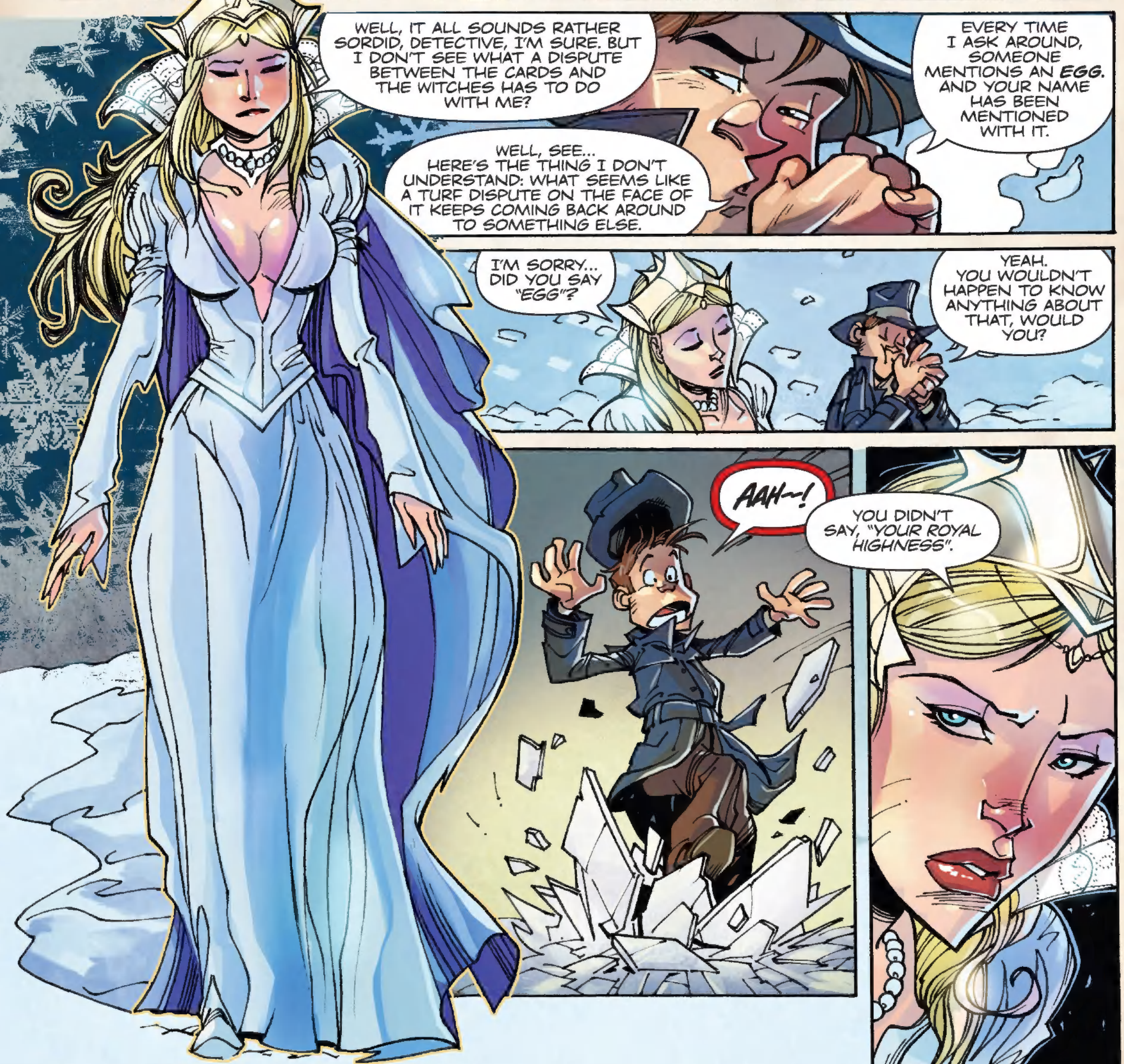


HER MAJESTY, THE WHITE QUEEN OF WONDERLAND, WILL SEE YOU NOW.

YOU'RE JACK FROST, AREN'T YOU? NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE, JACK. MUST COST A FEW BEANS TO KEEP UP.
MORE THAN A FEW BEANS, DETECTIVE. DO I TAKE IT FROM YOUR TONE THAT YOU'RE IMPLYING SOMETHING?
ME? IMPLY? WHAT WOULD I BE IMPLYING, MISTER FROST?
OH, NOTHING, I SUPPOSE. THIS WAY, PLEASE.
IS IT JUST THE WHITE QUEEN WHO CONTROLS THESE GROUNDS, SIR? IS THERE ANYONE ELSE HERE I SHOULD BE AWARE OF?
NO ONE OF IMPORTANCE.
COME ALONG NOW. HER MAJESTY DOES NOT LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITING.

YOUR MAJESTY. I APPRECIATE YOU AGREEING TO SEE ME AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
YOU MAY DISPENSE WITH THE FORMALITIES, DETECTIVE. "YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS" WILL SUFFICE. NOW TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE?

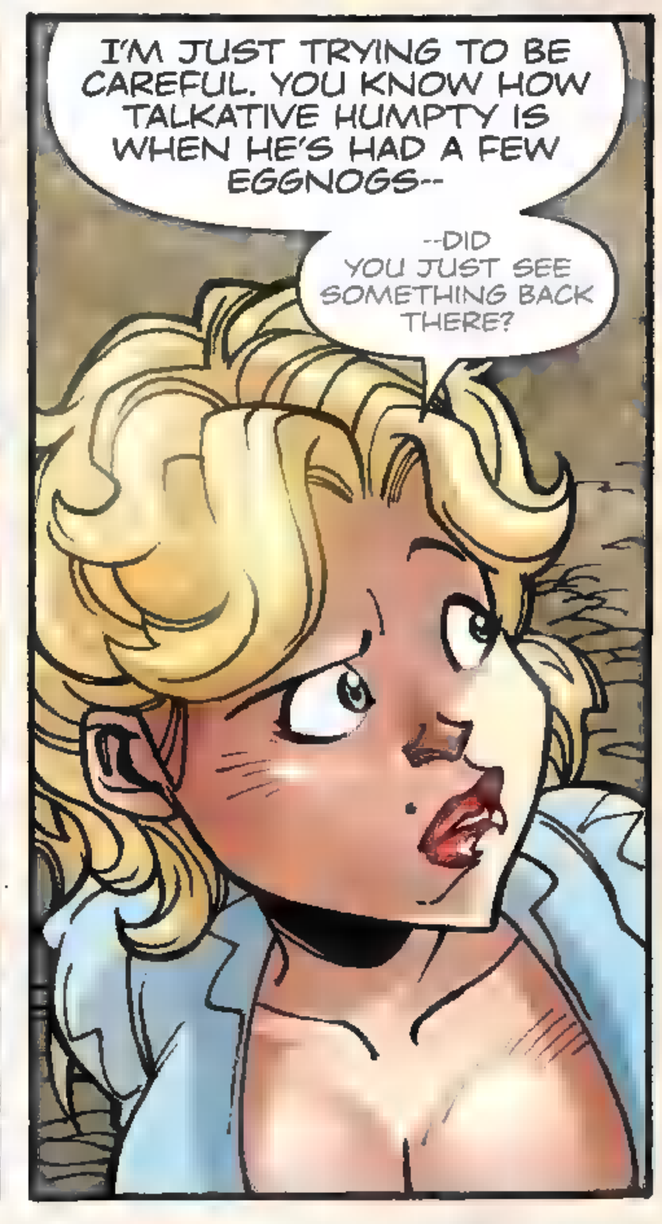
WELL... YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS... AS YOU KNOW THERE'S BEEN SOME RUMBLINGS IN THE CITY LATELY. THE POLAR WITCHES AND THE CARDS ARE GOING AT IT AGAIN.
YES. THESE ARE TAXING TIMES FOR YOU, I'M SURE.
THEY'RE TAXING FOR EVERYONE, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS. LAST WEEK WE HAD A PUSHING INCIDENT WITH TWO OF THE WITCHES' GANG--JACK AND JILL--ON A HILL OUTSIDE OF TOWN.
COUPLA DAYS LATER, SOMEONE SHOVED ONE OF THE CARDS' PEOPLE OFF A WALL: GUY BY THE NAME OF HUMPTY DUMPTY. LOOKS LIKE RETALIATION.

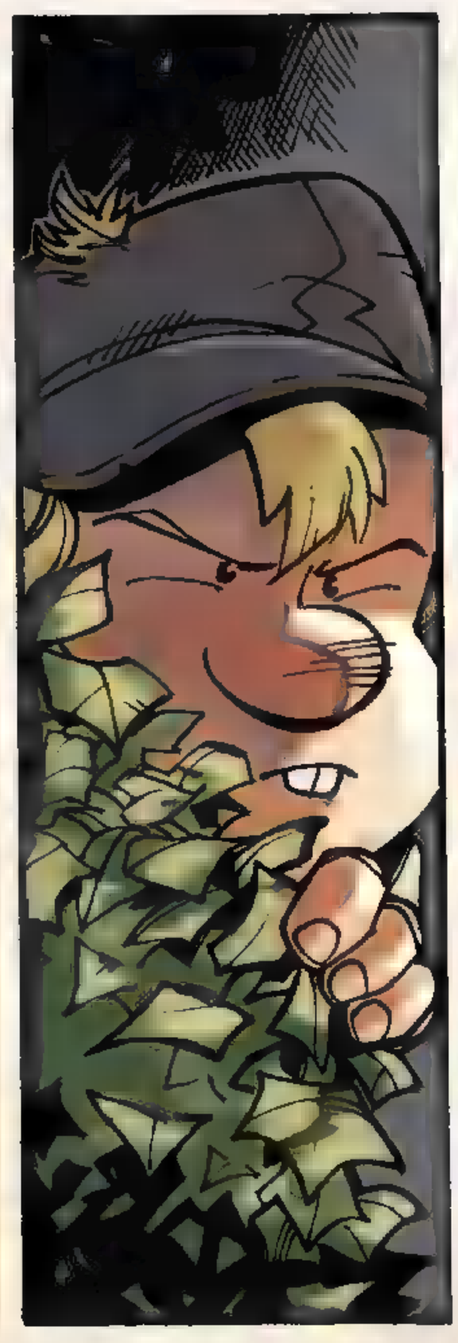

WELL, IT ALL SOUNDS RATHER SORDID, DETECTIVE, I'M SURE. BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE CARDS AND THE WITCHES HAS TO DO WITH ME?
WELL, SEE... HERE'S THE THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND: WHAT SEEMS LIKE A TURF DISPUTE ON THE FACE OF IT KEEPS COMING BACK AROUND TO SOMETHING ELSE.
EVERY TIME I ASK AROUND, SOMEONE MENTIONS AN EGG. AND YOUR NAME HAS BEEN MENTIONED WITH IT.
I'M SORRY... DID YOU SAY "EGG"?
YEAH. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU?
AAH--!
YOU DIDN'T SAY, "YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS".

...I'M JUST SAYING I'M GETTING WORRIED. THE POLICE HAVE BEEN ASKING AROUND, AND THEY STILL HAVE SOME OF MY HUSBAND'S SHELL CASING IN THEIR EVIDENCE ROOM, INCLUDING HIS MOUTHPIECE--
CALM YOURSELF, MADAM. IT IS UNWISE TO ATTRACT ATTENTION WHEN PRYING EYES ARE ALL AROUND US. EVEN THE WALLS HAVE EARS.
POISON APPLES
PIES

BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT HUMPTY'S MOUTH? WHAT IF HE TALKS TO THE POLICE?
OUR PEOPLE ARE TAKING CARE OF THE SITUATION. IT WON'T BE AN ISSUE FOR MUCH LONGER.

PETTO'S


I'M JUST TRYING TO BE CAREFUL. YOU KNOW HOW TALKATIVE HUMPTY IS WHEN HE'S HAD A FEW EGGNOGS--
--DID YOU JUST SEE SOMETHING BACK THERE?



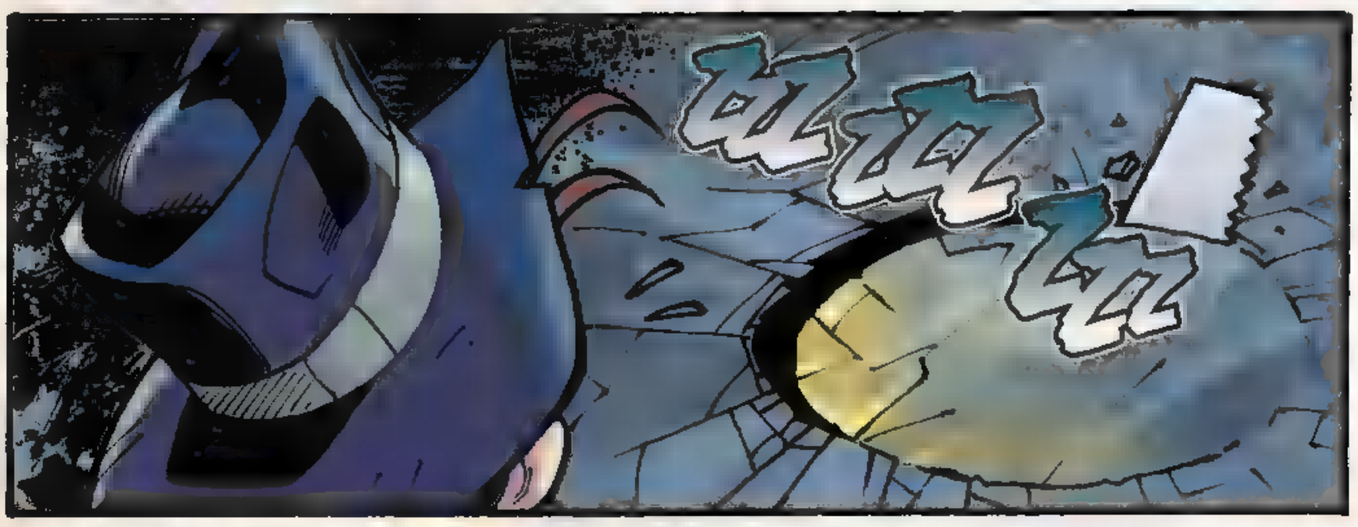
RIGHT, SO... PUT A TAIL ON THE WIFE.... PUT A TAIL ON THE WIFE... PUT A TAIL ON THE WIFE...
REMEMBER, YOU DON'T LOOK AS STUPID AS YOU ARE.
...THERE ARE RUMBLINGS FROM OUR PEOPLE INSIDE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. YESTERDAY WE APPREHENDED A SPY.
THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THE WITCHES ARE PLANNING A DIRECT ATTACK ON ONE OF US...
YYAAAHHHH!
AAAAAAAAAHHHH
WHAT--?
AAAH!
C'MERE, YOU!

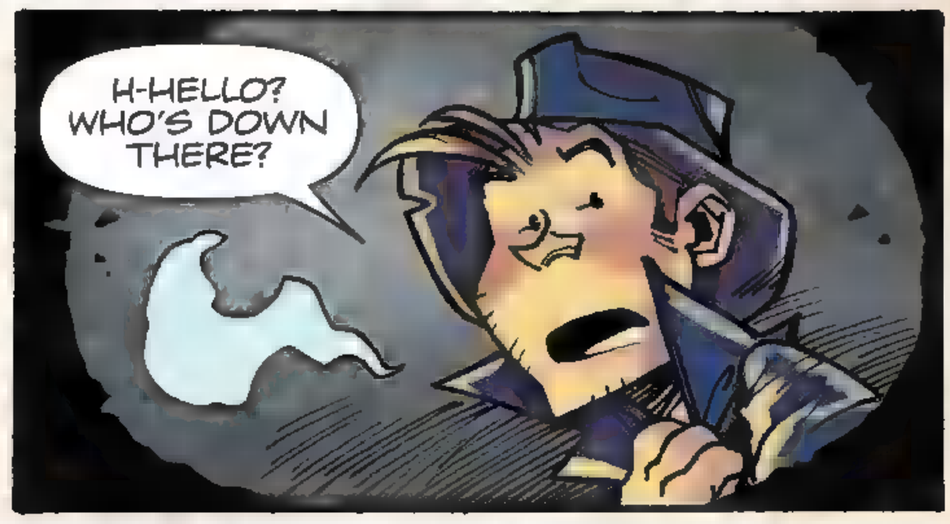
...NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I SE-EN...
SHUT UP, CARD CLOWN.

SO YOU'RE THE NEWCOMER, *HUH?* WELL, I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF YOU, NEWCOMER. YOU'RE ***TROUBLE.***

THE WHITE QUEEN DON'T TAKE MANY PRISONERS, AN' THE ONES SHE DOES DON'T LAST FER LONG. SO DON'T GET COMFORTABLE.
'CAUSE IT WON'T GET ANY WARMER FROM HERE ON OUT!
HAHAHA!

WOW. COMEDY GENIUS.
I HOPE YOU DIED ***QUICK,*** PAL.




H-HELLO? WHO'S DOWN THERE?

YOU MUST BE ZER DETECTIVE FROM RIMES.
BETTER COME MIT US IF YOU VANT TO ***LIF!***

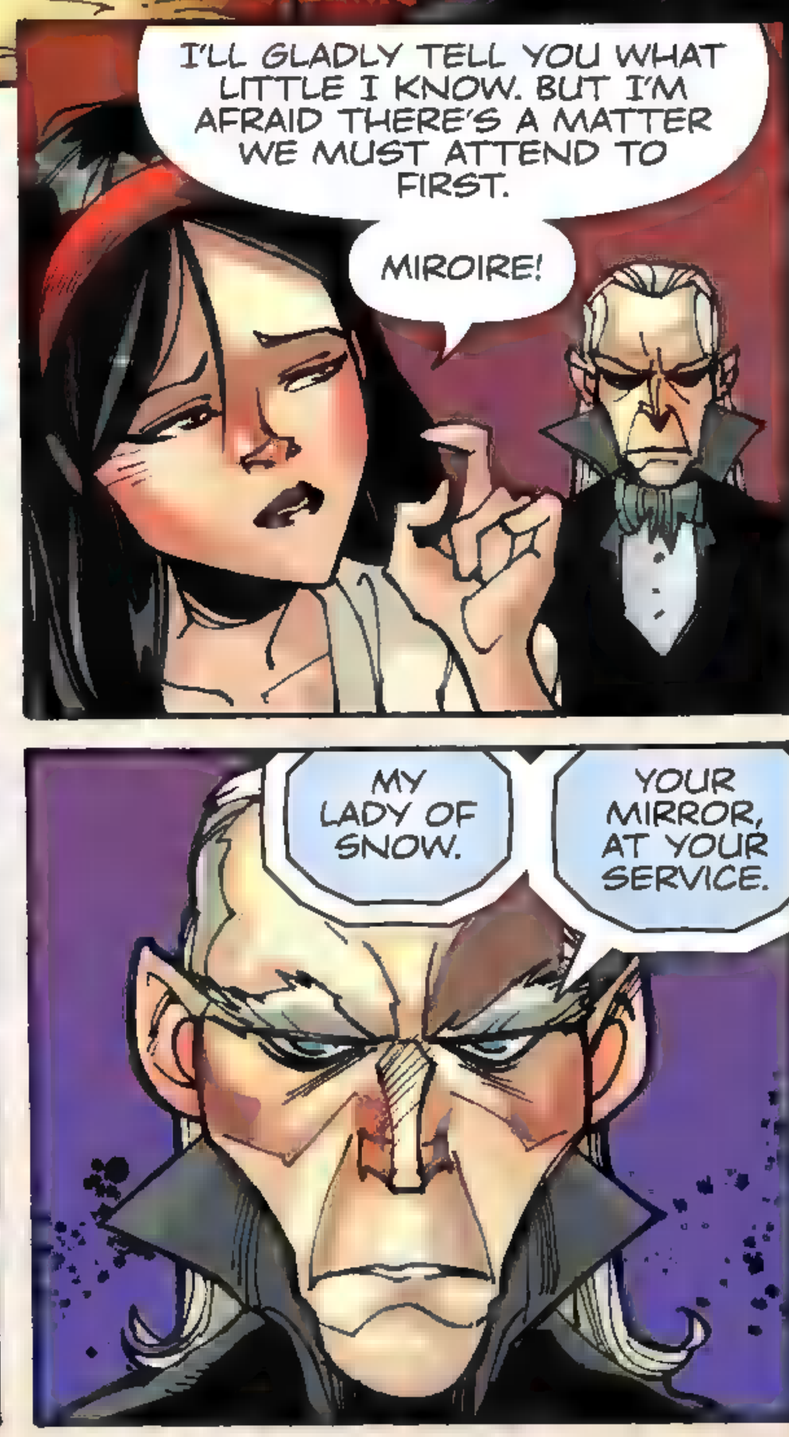
OKAY, WHAT'S WITH THE FUNNY ACCENTS? PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS ARE MUNCHKINS--
MUNCHKINS? DO VE LOOK LIKE DER MUNCHKINS TO YOU, POLICE KOPF?
NEIN!

I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S SO MANY MIDGETS IN THIS REALM, HOW DO YOU PEOPLE TELL THE DIFFERENCE?
SAY, WHERE ARE WE GOING? 'CAUSE IF IT'S SOMEWHERE BAD I'D JUST AS SOON STAY WHERE I WAS.
JUST COME MIT US AND YOUR ANSWERS VILL BE ANSWERED, BIG NINNY.

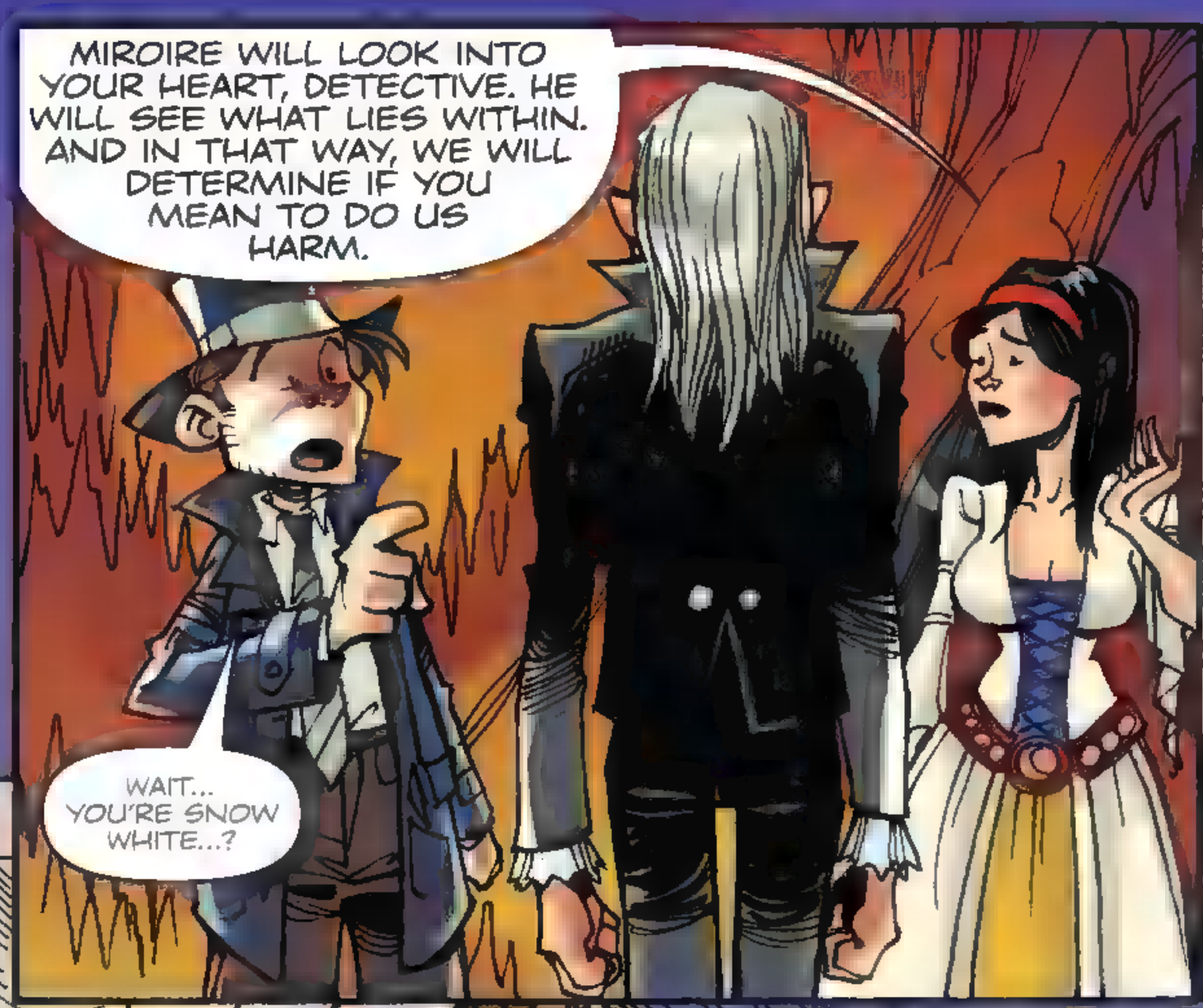
WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
MEIN PRINCESS, WE HAF GEBRUNGEN ZER PRISONER YOU SEEK!

JAWOHL!

THANK YOU, DIETER. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, MY LOYAL DWARF FRIENDS.
MISTER MACK, I'M SURE YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS.


I'LL GLADLY TELL YOU WHAT LITTLE I KNOW. BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S A MATTER WE MUST ATTEND TO FIRST.
MIROIRE!

MY LADY OF SNOW.
YOUR MIRROR, AT YOUR SERVICE.



MOTHER AND FATHER... BELOVED CHILD. THROWN INTO A LIFE OF REGRET.

LOVES ANOTHER BUT CAN NEVER TELL.

AND A DARKER SECRET EVEN SO. HE DIES AS HIS STORY FADES TO NOTHINGNESS--

AN EVIL PRESENCE CLOUDS HIS TALE. BUT HE LOSES THE SCENT. AND THE EVIL ONE ESCAPES.

THE QUEENS AND THE WITCHES HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT. THE CARDS, USUALLY... BUT MY STEPMOTHER, THE WHITE QUEEN, HAS OFTEN PLAYED THEM AGAINST EACH OTHER.

YEAH. MAYBE THAT'S THE WAY THEIR STORY PLAYS OUT. BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT ANYMORE.

HEY, IF I SAY ANYTHING ABOUT EGGS, THE FLOOR'S NOT GONNA SWALLOW ME UP, IS IT?

I'M NOT MY STEPMOTHER, DETECTIVE.

FINE. SO WHAT'S THIS *EGG* EVERYONE'S SO UP IN ARMS ABOUT? EVERY TIME IT COMES UP IN POLITE CONVERSATION, PEOPLE STOP BEING POLITE.

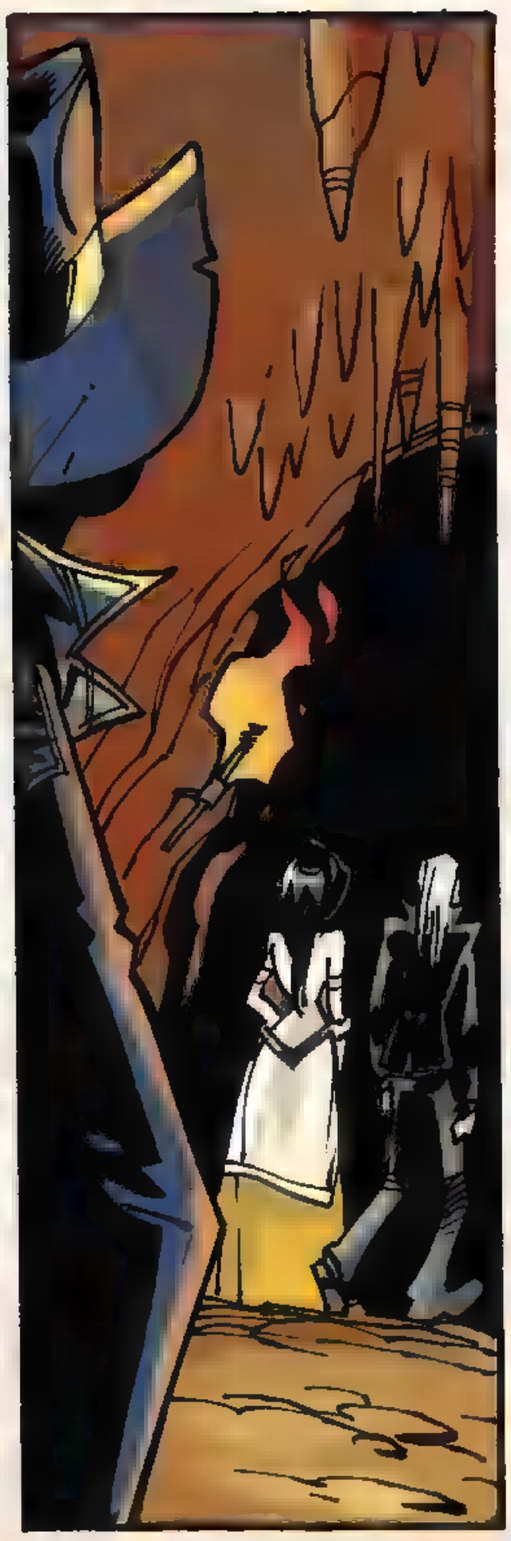
THE EGG IS A RUMOR. OR A FOLK TALE, PERHAPS. NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHAT IT IS.

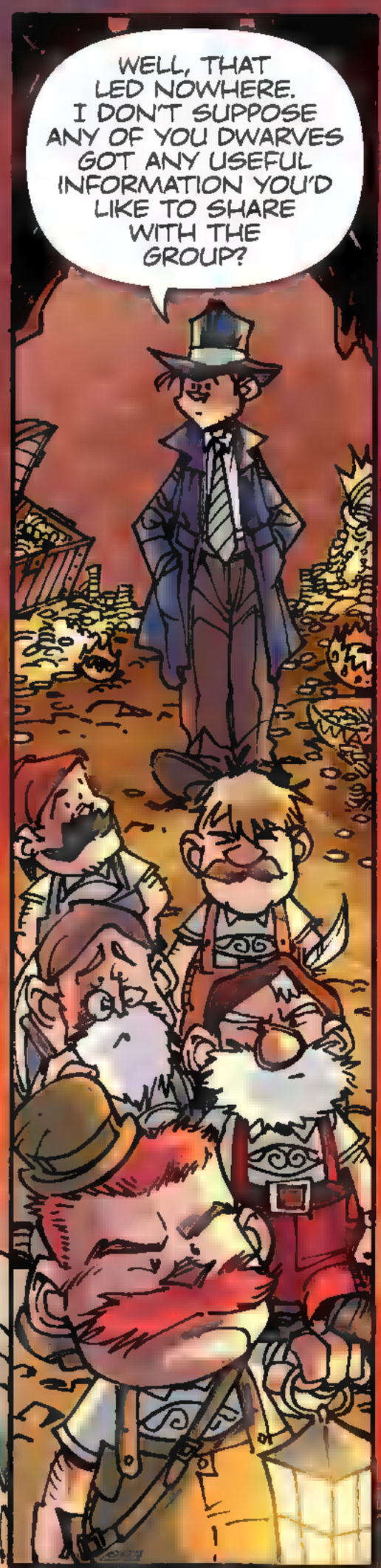
ALL I KNOW IS WHAT IS SAID: TO OWN THE EGG IS TO CONTROL ALL OF FABLEWOOD. THAT IS WHY THE MADONNAS WANT THEIR HANDS ON IT. IT'S WHY THEY'D KILL TO COVER IT UP.

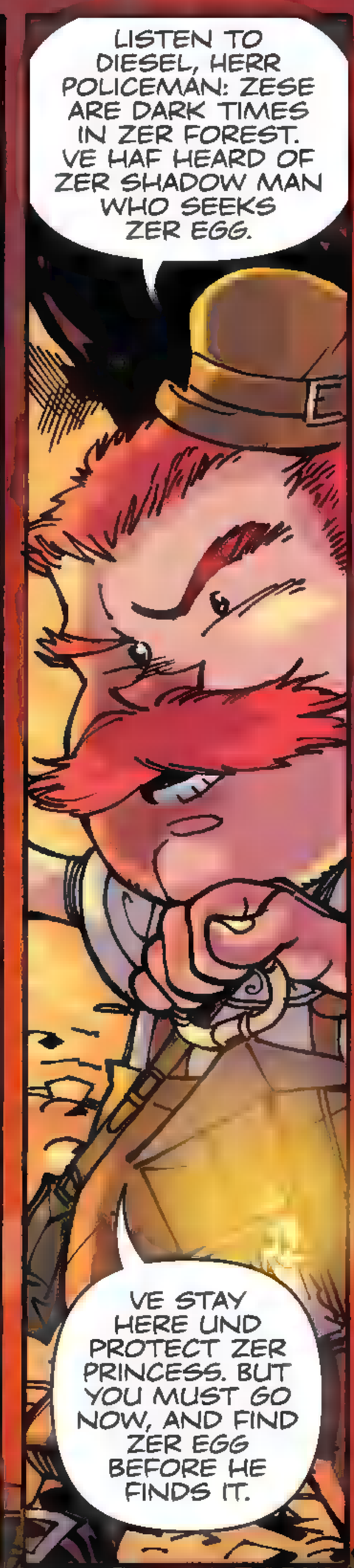
THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE. I THINK HE'S WORKING FOR THE QUEENS, OR THEY'RE WORKING FOR HIM. SOMEONE'S PULLING THE STRINGS.

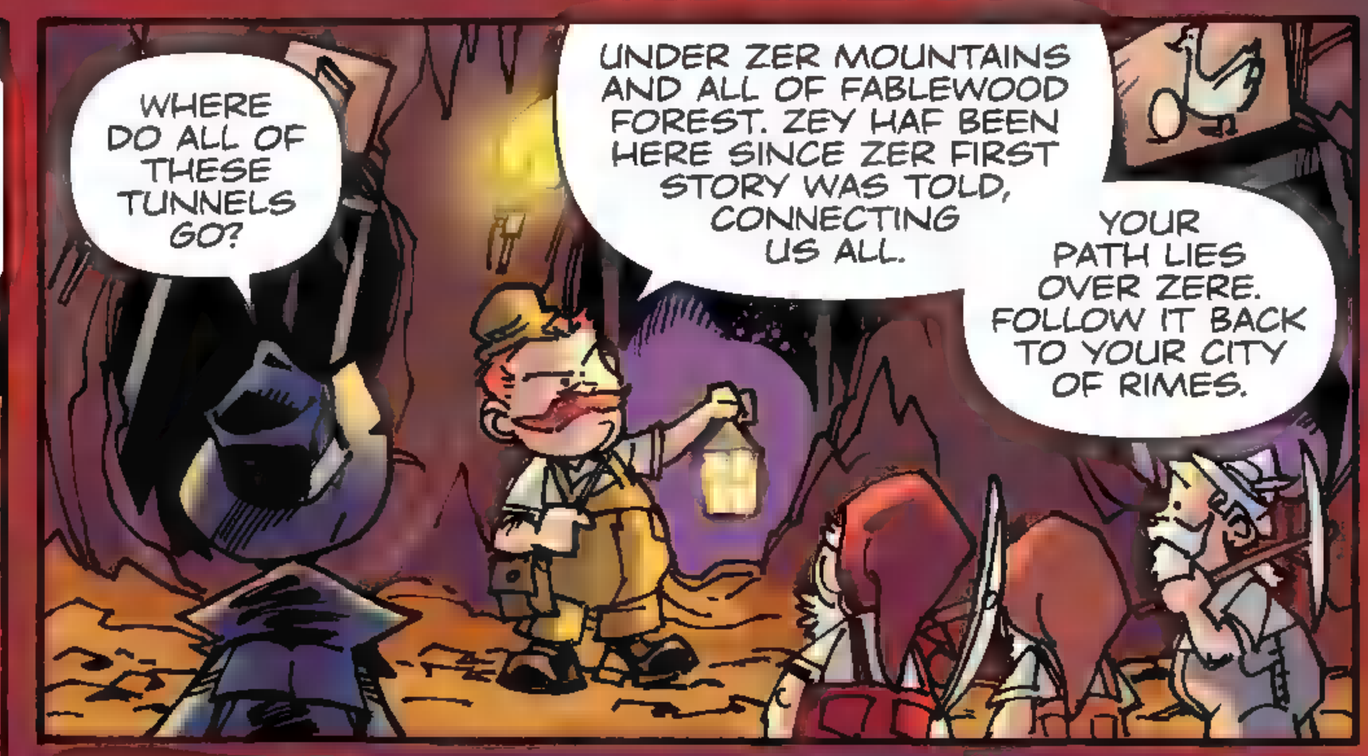
THEN IT IS AS I'VE HEARD. A DARK FORCE HAS ENTERED THE CHILDREN'S REALM: AN OUTSIDER, POSSIBLY. YOU MUST BE CAREFUL. TRUST NO ONE.

I HAVE A FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME, PRINCESS.




WELL, THAT LED NOWHERE. I DON'T SUPPOSE ANY OF YOU DWARVES GOT ANY USEFUL INFORMATION YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE GROUP?


LISTEN TO DIESEL, HERR POLICEMAN: ZESE ARE DARK TIMES IN ZER FOREST. VE HAF HEARD OF ZER SHADOW MAN WHO SEEKS ZER EGG.
VE STAY HERE UND PROTECT ZER PRINCESS. BUT YOU MUST GO NOW, AND FIND ZER EGG BEFORE HE FINDS IT.


WHERE DO ALL OF THESE TUNNELS GO?
UNDER ZER MOUNTAINS AND ALL OF FABLEWOOD FOREST. ZEY HAF BEEN HERE SINCE ZER FIRST STORY WAS TOLD, CONNECTING US ALL.
YOUR PATH LIES OVER ZERE. FOLLOW IT BACK TO YOUR CITY OF RIMES.

GO MIT SPEED, DETECTIF! UND BE WERRY CAREFUL!
GESUNDHEIT!

MIDGETS WITH ACCENTS. NO WONDER THIS PLACE IS ALL UPSIDE-DOWN.
OKAY... LET'S SEE WHERE THIS THING LEADS TO.

UH-OH.

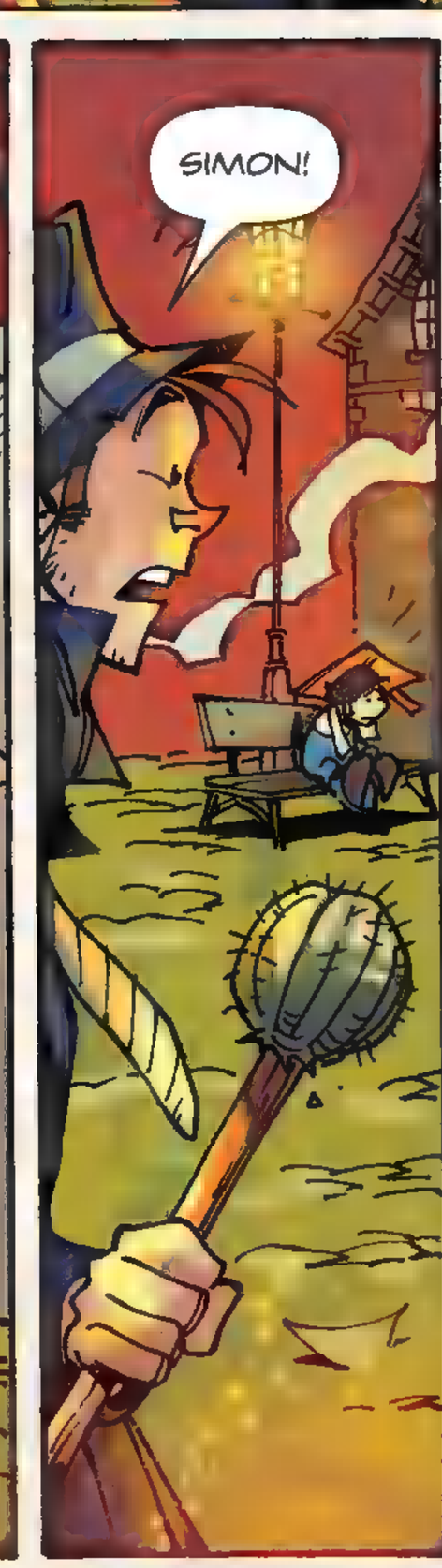
IT'S ONE OF THE WITCHES' MEN! AN INTRUDER FROM OZ! FLATTEN ITS SPOKES, MEN!
HEY! HEY! DETECTIVE FRANKIE MACK, RIMES PD!

STEP AWAY FROM THE WHEELER AND PUT DOWN YOUR CLUBS!
CRPD

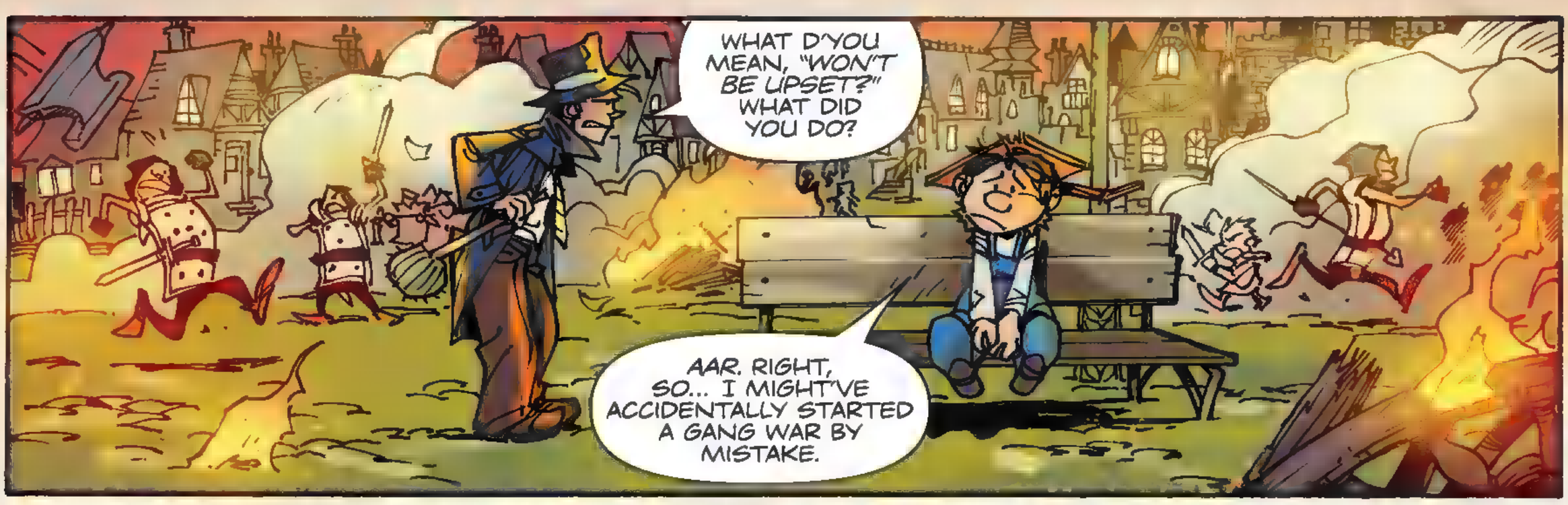
KRASH

BAA
BAA
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON AROUND HERE?

HAVE AT YE, KNAVE!
...OH, DEAR... OH, DEAR... OH, DEAR...


SIMON!

SIMON, IT'S ME, FRANKIE! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT HAPPENED?
PROMISE YOU WON'T BE UPSET?


WHAT D'YOU MEAN, "WON'T BE UPSET?" WHAT DID YOU DO?
AAR. RIGHT, SO... I MIGHT'VE ACCIDENTALLY STARTED A GANG WAR BY MISTAKE.

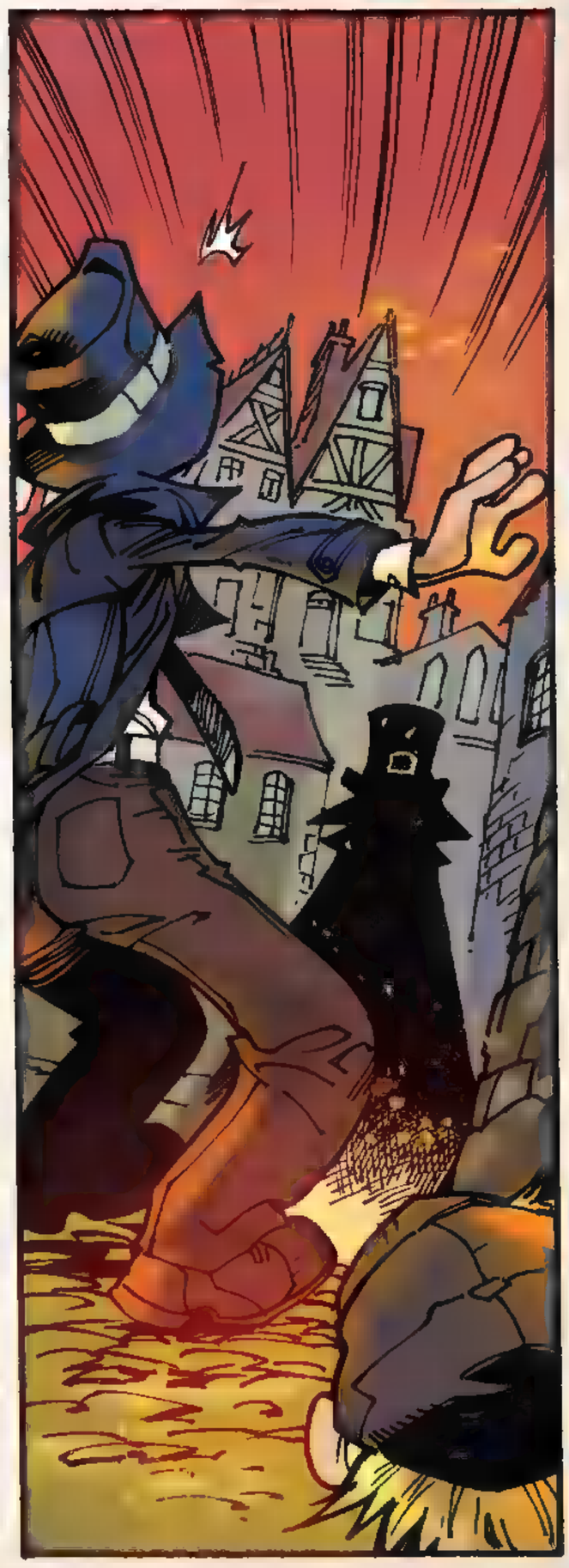
BY MISTAKE? HOW DO YOU START A WAR BY MISTAKE?
WELL, YOU KNOW THAT THING YOU SAID ABOUT TAILING HUMPTY'S WIFE? I THINK SHE WASN'T TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT.

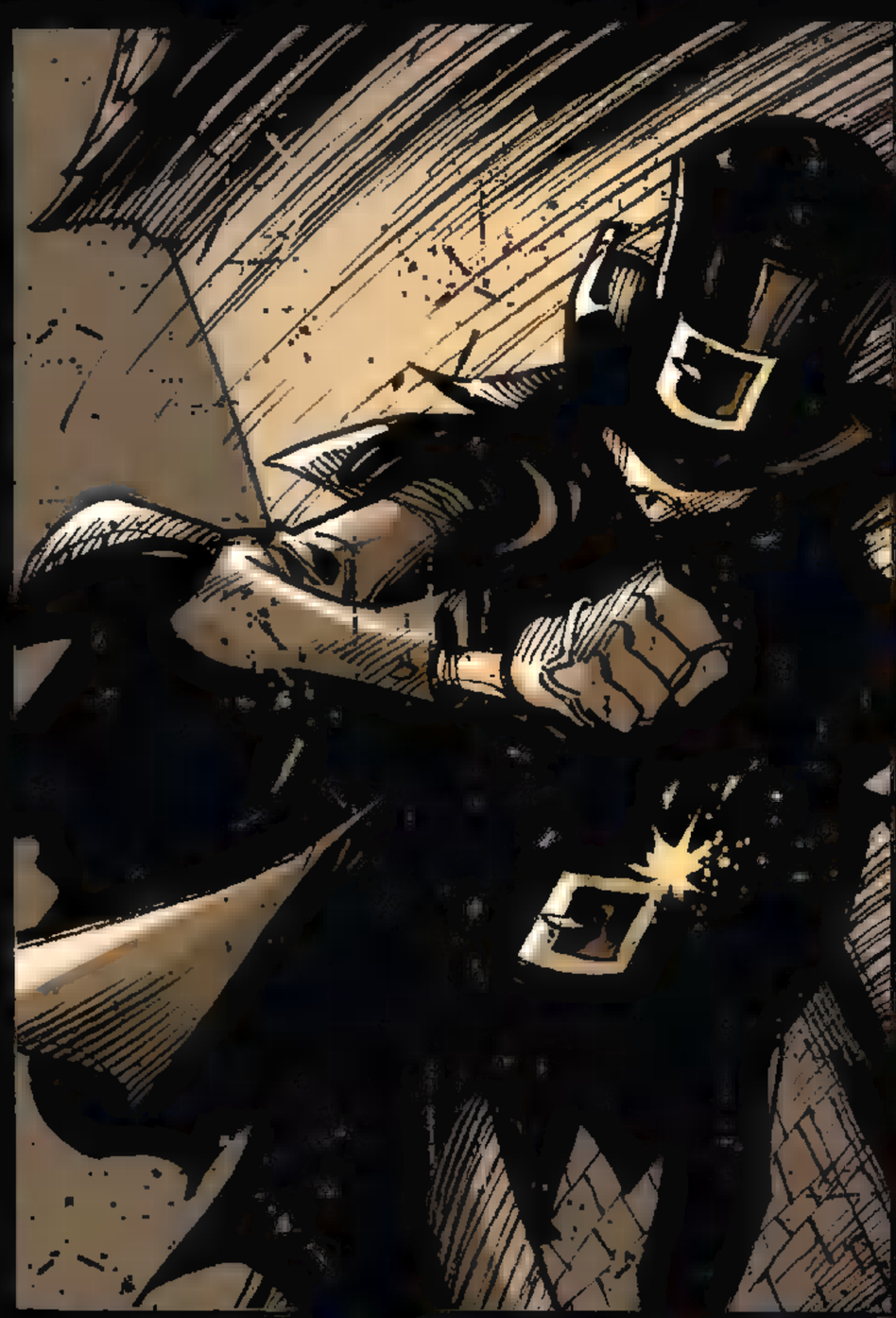
C'MON, FRANKIE! IT WASN'T MY FAULT! I GOT CONFUSED--
OH, REALLY? SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO ME HOW IT'S POSSIBLE TO BE SO CONFUSED YOU ACCIDENTALLY DESTROY AN ENTIRE CITY!
WELL, THAT'S EASY. SEE, FIRST OF ALL YOU HAVE TO REALLY ANNOY ONE OF THE MAIN GANGS IN TOWN--
I DIDN'T MEAN LITERALLY. OH, WHAT'S THE POINT? WHERE'S THE WIFE NOW?

SHE WENT BACK TO HUMPTY'S HOUSE! AN' THEN SOME STUFF EXPLODED! AN' THEN SOME HIT ME WITH A SIGN--
WE GOTTA GET TO HUMPTY! COME ON!

THERE'S HUMPTY'S HOUSE! WE GOTTA GET IN TO SEE HIS WIFE AND APOLOGIZE! IF SHE ASKS, YOU WERE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF TOO MUCH PIE!
JACK HORNER! THIS IS THE RIMES POLICE! WE HAVE YOU CORNERED!
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE, COPPER!

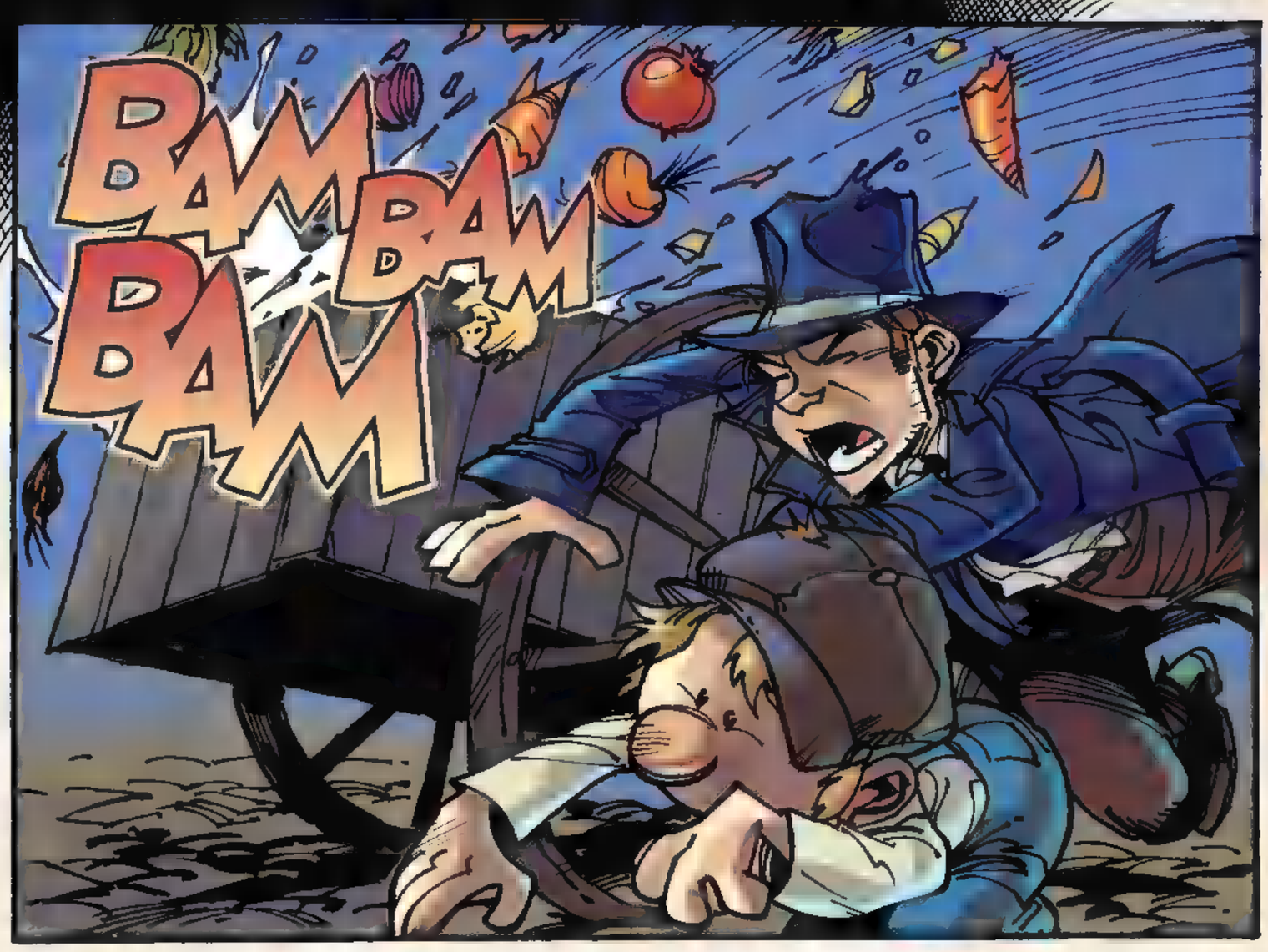
RIGHT YOU ARE, FRANKIE!





IT'S HIM.

SIMON! GET DOWN!

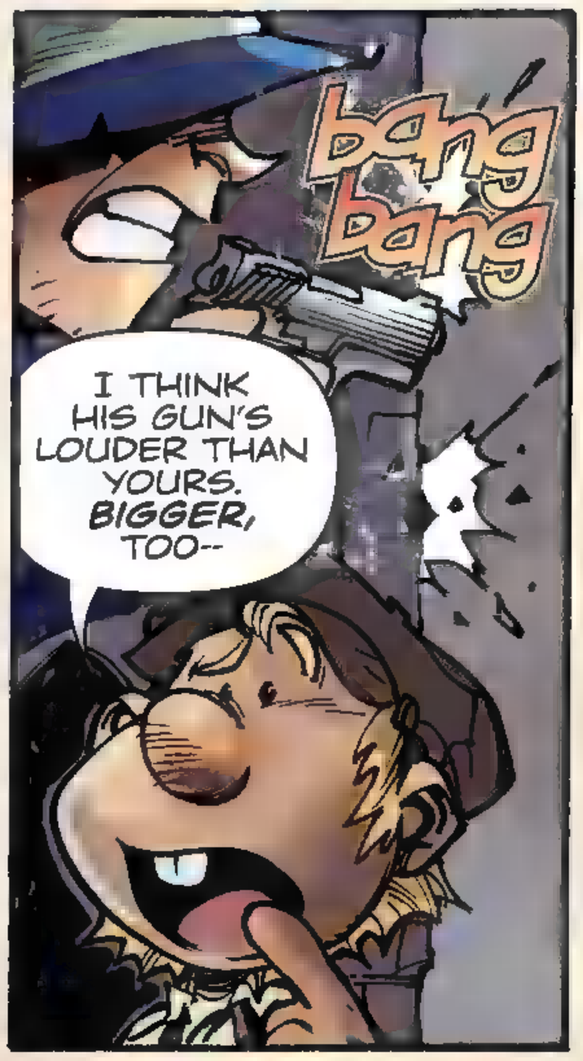

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

WHAT HAPPENED JUST THEN?
HE'S GOT A GUN, YOU IDIOT!

BAM BAM BAM
OO-ERR! THIS IS EXCITING!
WOULD YOU JUST SHUT UP AND GET YOUR HEAD DOWN.

OKAY, YOU STAY BACK. OR BETTER STILL, GO THE OTHER WAY. THIS GUY'S DANGEROUS--
I'M NOT GOING BACK THAT WAY! THERE'S A GANG WAR!

OKAY, FINE. BUT JUST STAY DOWN, OKAY? YOU'RE GOING TO GET US BOTH KILLED!


bang bang
I THINK HIS GUN'S LOUDER THAN YOURS. BIGGER, TOO--

I DON'T CARE HOW LOUD HIS GUN IS! JUST SHUT UP AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
CAN'T DO THAT, FRANKIE. I'M A POLICE DETECTIVE, I AM. I'M GONNA GO TELL HIM TO SURRENDER--
WHAT? NO, WAIT!

OVER THERE! IT'S THE BACK WAY TO HUMPTY'S HOUSE!

YOU CAN'T HAVE A LOADED CARROT. JUST PUT IT DOWN, OKAY?

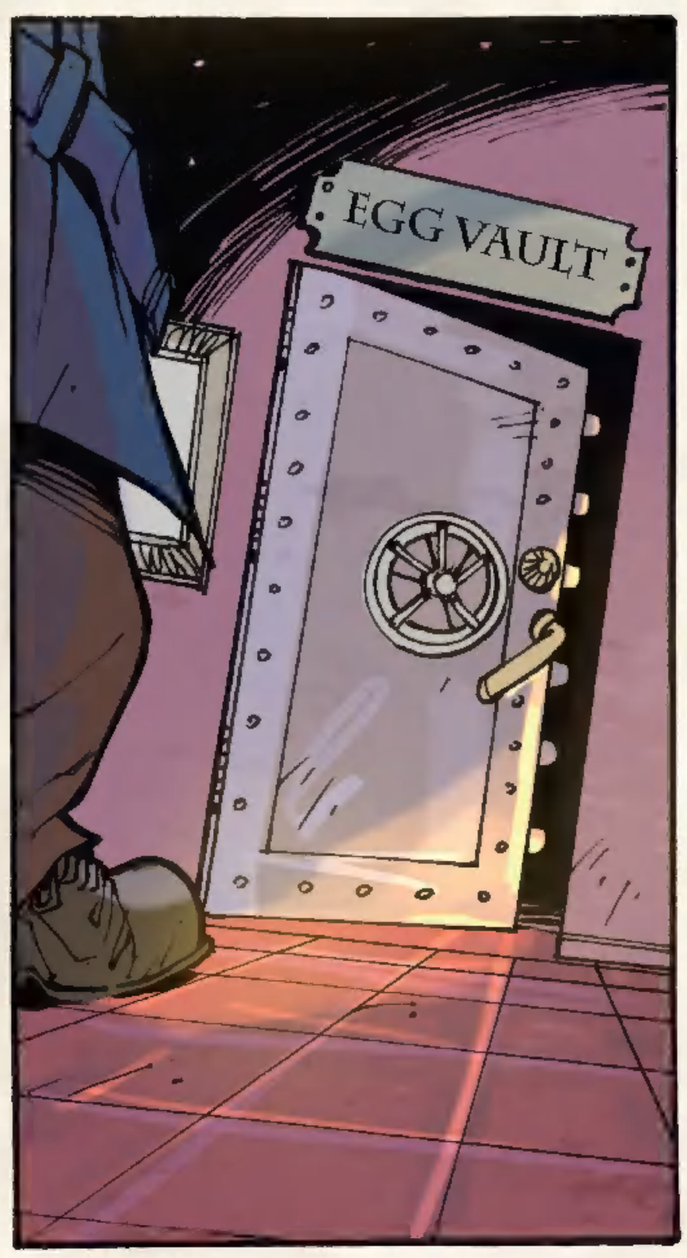
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, FRANKIE! I'M NOT GOING IN THERE UNARMED!

KRAKK

OKAY... NICE AN' EASY DOES IT. I KNOW THIS GUY. HE KNOWS HOW TO COVER HIS TRACKS...

OOH. LOOK AT THAT ONE!
SIMON, IF WE SURVIVE THIS, REMIND ME TO KILL YOU.
OKEY-DOKEY.

SSH. QUIET NOW. I THINK HE WENT UPSTAIRS.
OKAY. RIGHT, SO.


EGG VAULT

FREEZE! YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE!

WHAT, IS THIS SOME VERSION OF "QUIET" THAT ONLY MAKES SENSE TO VILLAGE IDIOTS?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE--
UH-OH.

RYS

BLIMEY. I DON'T THINK I COULD SLEEP THROUGH ALL OF THIS NOISE.
HE'S NOT SLEEPING, SIMON. HE'S DEAD.
OH. RIGHT, SO. SHALL I WAKE HIM UP, THEN?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. RIGHT NOW I GOTTA CHECK FOR A PULSE.

I THINK I SAW ONE OF THOSE ON THE MANTELPIECE DOWNSTAIRS--
NO YOU DIDN'T. NOW WHERE THE HECK DO YOU FIND A PULSE ON AN EGG?

AWW... GAWD! ECCH!

FRANKIE? NOW WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT HUMPTY? IS HE REALLY DEAD?

SCRAMBLED. BY HIS OWN PEOPLE.
AND WE'RE NEXT IN LINE TO GET FRIED.
To Be Continued...

ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK™

STORY BY
CHRISTOPHER SEBELA
INTERIOR ART BY
DIEGO BARRETO

"I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD?"
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SON OF ULTRON